TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2001 LB 543

program which is available only to students who attend private schools, the vast majority of them church related. There are 12 of them, and only Bellevue College is a one among the bunch. The Governor did not veto about 11 or nonreligious that much money out, \$272,500. I had offered to my colleagues every imaginable combination of monies stricken from this program, add it to the other, completely stripped from this program with nothing being done with it, and my colleagues voted to leave the full amount that the Appropriations Committee wanted to put in by way of an increase in the appropriation to this program. They presented us with a total amount of \$750,000 for each one of these programs. The Governor has vetoed out part of that money. For the first year, there will be nothing. He left in funding for the second year. Accepting what I have suggested, all people who are fearful ought to lock at as a way out of anything that might be troubling to them down the line. The world may come to an end before then and it won't be a problem for anybody, but should it not we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. This year, there is no funding. the Governor would expect me to fight it next year if you leave this amount in the budget. But it certainly will head you off at the pass if you try to put additional money on top of this. I believe this money ought to be vetoed out, as the Governor did. I believe his veto ought to be upheld. It takes 30 votes. You probably have them very easy on each and every one of these propositions individually and certainly collectively, but I'm going to make you work for your money. I'm going to make you work on each one of these items and I'm going to work with you. I'm not going to leave and go down in my office, throw a rock and hide my hand. I'm going to assume the responsibility for having us discuss each one of these items, have the merits laid before us, and see if there are 30 votes, less mine, without mine, to override the Governor. You know why I want to do it? I want the Governor to see how each one of you votes on each one of these items so that when he and Mr. Peterson, who ever else he has, with their little hoods with the eye holes and little bitty hatchets the size of ink pens, looking down the checking it once, checking it twice, and then if the little ax comes down on your bill are you going to come back over here and ask the senators to now bail you out because you antagonized the Governor and he did what he said he would do? And will there be